GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2095
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
FIRE ACCIDENTS IN FORESTS OF MADHYA PRADESH
KANTILAL BHURIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire accidents occurred in forests of Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the details of estimated loss suffered during the said period; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check these fire accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) As intimated by the Madhya Pradesh Government, 1698 cases offire occurred in the forests of the State during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that damage due to fire, falls in the following categories:-

- Loss of marketable timber & also loss in its quality
- Loss of ground cover & moisture.
- Death and injury to small fauna.
- Loss of ground productivity due to desiccation.

Out of the 1698 cases, only six cases were of major fire. It has been estimated by the Madhya Pradesh Government that the total losses suffered in the major fires were Rs.35,730.00. No monetary loss was estimated for the ground fires. However, repeated ground fires cause intangible loss in the soil moisture and changes in the vegetation profile.

(c)
(i) The Central Government is providing Central assistance to the States for prevention, control and suppression of forest fires under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Forest Fire Control and Management`. The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines in June 2000 for prevention and control of forest fire. There is a component in the Scheme for involving the Joint Forest Management Committees in prevention and suppression of forest fire.

(ii) State Government has been advised to initiate public awareness campaigns, timely control burning and quick detection and suppression of forest fires, through modern forest fire control methods and involvement of local people.